

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19 Update for Chiefs: *March 10th, 2021*



Updates

Alberta Enters Step 2 of Re-opening:

Effective immediately, Alberta will continue to ease restrictions. Indoor masking and distancing requirements will remain in place throughout this stepped approach, and some degree of restrictions will still apply to all activities within each step. Banquet halls, community halls, conference centres and hotels can now open for all activities permitted under Step 1 and Step 2. This includes hosting virtual meetings/conferences/events, permitted performance activities, wedding ceremonies with up to 10 individuals, and funeral services up to a maximum of 20 individuals. Wedding receptions, funeral receptions or trade shows are not permitted. All retail services and shopping malls must limit customer capacity to 25 per cent of fire code occupancy, not including staff. This is an increase from 15 per cent. Individuals or groups can now rehearse and perform in preparation for filming or live streaming a performance, provided they adhere to public health guidance. Individual performers or performance groups (up to a maximum of 10 individuals) can access facilities for rehearsals or filming/virtual broadcasting. No in-person audiences are allowed for any type of performance. There is no change to the restrictions around youth sport and recreation. More info [here](#).

Extending the period between first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine:

Beginning today, anyone who books a first dose of vaccine will have their second dose timeline extended up to four months, and the appointment will be booked at a later date. Emerging evidence indicates that first doses of all currently approved vaccines appear to be at least 70 to 80 per cent effective in protecting against severe outcomes after the first dose. The 16-week timeline for second doses brings Alberta in line with British Columbia and other jurisdictions. More info available [here](#).

Question of the Day

Q: What is the update on the Vaccine roll-out?

A: The province has announced **First Nations people 50 years old and older can begin booking appointments starting on March 15. Alberta will start offering vaccination appointments to all Albertans 65 to 74 years old starting on the March 15 as well. These bookings will be offered in one-year intervals. On the first day — March 15 — anyone born in 1947 will be eligible to book their appointment. On Day 2 of Phase 2A, anyone born in 1948 can book their appointment and so on. The province has also indicated that Phase 2B of Alberta's vaccine rollout plan includes people 18 to 64 with high-risk underlying health conditions, health officials are still working to determine which conditions would fall in this group. The goal is all Albertans over the age of 18 will have access to their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine by the end of June. More info [here](#).**

AstraZeneca vaccine booking opens TODAY:

Vaccination appointments will open by birth year (starting with 1972), one year at a time, for First Nations people aged 35-49 for the first 58,500 doses. Appointments can be booked on [Alberta Health Services' website](#) or by calling 811. In general, this particular vaccine is only recommended for people 18-64 because more research on its safety and effectiveness outside this age range is still being done.

Alberta Cases:

as of March 9th, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Mar. 8 th – 255 new cases)	136,374
AB Recovered Cases	129,978
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	6,573
On-reserve Recovered Cases	6,000
On-Reserve Active Cases	505
Calgary Zone Confirmed	52,129
Central Zone Confirmed	10,428
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	54,496
North Zone Confirmed	12,442
South Zone Confirmed	6,775
Unknown Confirmed	104
Deaths due to COVID-19	1,926
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	68

Critical Worker Benefit

Last month, the Government of Alberta announced the critical worker benefit for public and private-sector workers who are eligible to receive one-time payments of \$1,200 for putting themselves at risk on the job during the pandemic. Eligible employees working in First Nations communities are eligible to receive the benefit. **Employers must apply for the benefit on behalf of their workers. First Nations communities must apply on behalf of their eligible employees by March 19, 2021**, In order to access the application portal, you must have a [MyAlberta Digital ID Business](#) account with a secure login name and password. Critical Worker Benefit program staff are available 8:15 am to 4:30 pm (Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays) at 310-4455 or cwb@gov.ab.ca. A full list of who is eligible as well as further details are available [here](#).

Regional Snapshot



More Alberta case data can be found [here](#)

Useful Links

March 11 - The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Webinar for Health Care Providers:

This webinar includes a presentation and discussion on the topic of delayed injection site reactions (including COVID-19 Arm), with live Q&A to inform health care and vaccine providers. This webinar is hosted by the National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID).

Thursday, March 11, 2021 12pm-1pm

Presenters: Dr. Elissa Abrams and Nooshin Ahmadipour, PHAC

Q&A panel: Joseline Zafack, Dr. Abrams, Nooshin Ahmadipour, PHAC, and Dr. Gina Lacuesta, Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University. **Register:** [Click here](#)

National Info

[Government of Canada COVID-19 Update for Indigenous Peoples and communities](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Indigenous communities](#)

[COVID-19 vaccines and Indigenous peoples](#)

Vaccine Update



Janssen (Johnson&Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine :

As of March 5, 2021, Health Canada has approved COVID-19 vaccines from Janssen Inc., Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca and COVISHield, the version of the AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured by Serum Institute of India and sponsored in Canada by Verity Pharmaceuticals. Health Canada understands the urgency and the impact vaccines will have on the lives of Canadians, and has been working diligently and as quickly as possible to review COVID-19 vaccines. The Janssen Inc. vaccine is the only single-dose COVID-19 vaccine currently approved by Health Canada and is for those over the age of 18. The authorization of additional vaccines provide more tools to fight this pandemic as quickly as possible, and will provide more supply to the market. Different vaccines have different advantages. For example, the AstraZeneca and Janssen Inc. vaccines are easier to transport and store since they only need to be kept in refrigerated conditions. The Janssen Inc. is not available in Alberta yet, but we will keep all of you updated when it is. Until there is sufficient population immunity, Canadians need to continue their efforts in minimizing the spread of COVID-19 through the wearing of masks, staying home when sick, and practicing social distancing.

Vaccine procurement and vaccine fraud:

The Government of Canada based on advice from the Vaccine Task Force, leads negotiations and finalizes agreements with vaccine manufacturers. This procurement approach ensures the legitimacy of all vaccine products coming into Canada, and further ensures that everyone in Canada including First Nations can have confidence in the authenticity and safety of the vaccines being provided to them. We are aware of unsolicited sales offers of approximately 300 million doses of AstraZeneca and other COVID-19 vaccines by sources, outside the Government of Canada's existing agreements, to First Nations and Métis, municipal and provincial governments, and various federal departments. We have confirmed that these offers are not legitimate. ISC will report any unsolicited offers to the RCMP and other security partners if they are deemed fraudulent. If you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, please contact your local police. If you want to report an instance of a scam, fraud or cybercrime, whether you are a victim or not, please report it to the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#) (CAFC).

Vaccine Snapshot

*as of March 8th



10,069 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **8,574** First Nations people have receive their first dose



At least **3,009** First Nations people aged 65 years and older living in reserve or crown land have received their first dose.



At least **505** First Nations people aged 65 years and older have receive two doses of the vaccine.



At least **1,443** First Nations people have receive two doses of the vaccine.